



PATENT 8-INF-1980

Description

D-type flip-flop with a reduced number of transistors

The invention relates to a D-type flip-flop and to a D-type flip-flop with an activation input.

In integrated circuits having a large number of flip-flop circuits, the required chip area is determined to a significant extent by the area of the flip-flops. In the circuit to be integrated, a large number of required flip-flops lead to a very large chip area or have the effect that it is not possible for the entire circuit to be integrated in a chip.

The flip-flop circuits are usually constructed from a master latch and a slave latch, the master latch accepting a data signal present at the data input with a first edge and the slave latch accepting the data signal with a second edge, from where it can then be tapped off at a non-inverting and an inverting output. For this purpose, in each D-type flip-flop, an inverted clock signal can be formed from the clock signal present by an inverter circuit and a non-inverted clock signal can be formed from the inverted clock signal by a further inverter circuit, so that the non-inverted clock signal and the inverted clock signal can be made available to the master latch and to the slave latch.

Usually, both master latch and the slave latch comprise a clock-level-controlled holding element into which data are accepted with the aid of the first and the second clock edge, respectively, and are stored permanently, i.e. statically,

therein depending on the clock level. Making the non-inverted clock signal and the inverted clock signal available for the master latch and the slave latch means that at least two or four transistors are required, which increase the area required in the integrated circuit.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a D-type flip-flop which can be constructed with a small number of transistors, so that it is possible to reduce the area of the D-type flip-flop in an integrated circuit.

This object is achieved by means of the flip-flop according to claim 1.

Further advantageous refinements of the invention are specified in the dependent claims.

The invention provides a flip-flop having a clock input for the application of a clock signal, a data input for the application of a data signal, a non-inverting output and an inverting output. The flip-flop has a data acceptance unit and a storage unit. The storage unit essentially comprises a feedback loop with a first and a second inverter circuit having feedback to one another (SRAM cell). The non-inverting output is coupled to an output of the first inverter circuit and the inverting output is coupled to an output of the second inverter circuit. The data acceptance unit is configured in such a way as, depending on the data signal present and the clock signal present, to allocate a predetermined programming potential either to an input of the first inverter circuit or to an input of the second inverter circuit and to apply no potential to the input of the respective other of the first and second inverter circuits. The data acceptance device has a first switching element in order to apply the predetermined

programming potential to the input of the first inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal. The data acceptance device furthermore has a second switching element in order to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the second inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal.

The flip-flop circuit according to the invention has the advantage that it manages with a smaller number of transistors and that separate switching elements are used by virtue of the provision of a first and a second switching element for switching the programming potential. This has the advantage that no interactions can occur between the input of the first inverter circuit and the input of the second inverter circuit.

It may be provided that the first switching element is connected up in such a way that it is activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal and a first level of the data signal and is inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal and/or a second level of the data signal. The second switching element may be connected up in such a way that it is activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal and a second level of the data signal and is inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal and/or a first level of the data signal. In this way, the programming potential is applied to the input of the first inverter circuit if a first level of the data signal and a first level of the clock signal are present and the programming potential is applied to the input of the second inverter circuit if the second level of the data signal and the first level of the clock signal are present. Through application of the programming potential to the respective node of the feedback loop, the storage unit is programmed, i.e. a potential is impressed which corresponds to the

information to be stored and is held by means of the feedback of the feedback loop.

It may furthermore be provided that the first switching element is coupled to an output of a first partially clocked inverter in order to apply the inverted data signal to the first switching element in the event of a second level of the clock signal or in the event of the first level of the clock signal given the presence of the second level of the data signal and to apply no potential actively to the corresponding node of the first switching element given the presence of the first level of the clock signal and the first level of the data signal.

It may furthermore be provided that the second switching element is coupled to an output of a second partially clocked inverter, the second partially clocked inverter being connected to the output of the first partially clocked inverter in order to apply a non-inverted data signal to the second switching element in the event of a second level of the clock signal and to apply no potential actively to the second switching element in the event of a first level of the clock signal.

In this way, the driving of the first and second switching elements can be carried out by the first and second partially clocked inverters. As a result, the switching elements can be driven with comparatively few transistors. In contrast to customary circuits in which partially clocked inverters comprise four series-connected transistors, two of which have to be driven with an inverted clock signal and a non-inverted clock signal, the first and second partially clocked inverters which are used in the invention have only three series-connected transistors, only one of the transistors being

driven by the non-inverted clock signal. In this way it is possible to avoid the situation in which an inverted clock signal has to be made available within the flip-flop circuit.

It is preferably provided that the first and second partially clocked inverters are configured in such a way that, in the event of a change in the clock signal from a second level to the first level given an unchanged data signal, the inverted data signal is present at the output of the first partially clocked inverter and consequently the non-inverted data signal is present at the output of the second partially clocked inverter in any case until the data signal is stored in the storage unit.

In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, an activation input is provided in order to activate or deactivate the flip-flop with the aid of an activation signal. In this case, the first switching element and the second switching element are activated or inhibited in each case depending on the clock signal, the data signal present at the data input, and the activation signal, so that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal, the information of the storage element remains stored independently of the clock signal present and the data signal present. In this way, it is possible to realize a D-type flip-flop with an activation input in which the activation input can be implemented in a simple way and in which case the implementation of the activation input requires a smaller number of transistors than in previous D-type flip-flops. Furthermore, existing layouts have to be changed only to an insignificant extent since the storage element and also the first and second switching elements can be retained essentially unchanged.

It may furthermore be provided that the first switching element is coupled to an output of a first partially clocked gate in order to apply the inverted data signal to the first switching element in the event of an activated activation signal and in the event of a second level of the clock signal, to apply no potential to the first switching element in the event of a deactivated activation signal, and in the event of the first level of the clock signal and an activated activation signal, to apply either the inverted data signal to the first switching element if the second level of the data signal is present, or no potential to the first switching element if the first level of the data signal is present. In this way it is possible to make available to the first and second switching elements drive signals which depend on the data signal present, the clock signal and the activation signal, and the driving being effected with the aid of a first and second partially clocked gate. In this way, the activation input can be realized with a very small number of transistors.

It may be provided that the second switching element is coupled to an output of a second partially clocked gate, the second partially clocked gate being connected to the output of the first partially clocked gate in order to apply a non-inverted data signal to the second switching element in the event of an activated activation signal and in the event of a second level of the clock signal, and to apply no potential to the second switching element in the event of the first level of the clock signal and/or in the event of a deactivated activation signal.

Preferably, the first or the second switching element is connected to the first and the second partially clocked gate such that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal and in the event of the first level of the clock signal depending

on the data signal stored in the storage unit, the first or the second switching element is activated in order to retain the information stored in the storage unit. For this purpose, the outputs of the first inverter circuit and of the second inverter circuit may be fed back to the data acceptance unit and be connected up there in such a way that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal, precisely one of the first and second switching elements is activated, so that a programming potential is applied to the input of the first or the input of the second inverter circuit. This ensures that that node of the feedback unit which is at the programming potential is reliably held at the programming potential. In other words, the potential at the output of the feedback inverter circuits which is at a potential which corresponds to the inverted information of the programming potential is intended not to be able to be inadvertently connected to the programming potential by the corresponding switching element. This could be effected, in the event of a deactivated activation signal, e.g. through floating of the control signals present at the switching elements.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are explained in more detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a D-type flip-flop circuit in accordance with a first embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 2 shows a D-type flip-flop circuit with an activation input in accordance with a second embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 1 shows a D-type flip-flop 1 having a clock input 2 for the clock signal CLK. The D-type flip-flop 1 furthermore has a

data input 3 for a data signal D. The D-type flip-flop circuit 1 has a storage element 4 and a data acceptance circuit 5.

The storage element 4 essentially comprises two inverter circuits having feedback to one another, a first inverter circuit 6 and a second inverter circuit 7, the first and second inverter circuits in each case comprising a P-channel transistor and an N-channel transistor connected in series. An input of the respective inverter circuit is situated at the control terminals of the transistors, which control terminals are to be contact-connected jointly. An output of the respective inverter circuit 6, 7 can be tapped off at the interconnected terminals of the P-channel transistor and N-channel transistor. Furthermore, an operating voltage is present across the transistors.

The first and second inverter circuits 6, 7 have feedback to one another, i.e. the output of the first inverter circuit 6 is connected to the input of the second inverter circuit 7 at a second node K2, and the output of the second inverter circuit 7 is connected to the input of the first inverter circuit 6 at a first node K1. The stored non-inverted data signal can be tapped off at the output of the first inverter circuit 6 and the stored inverted data signal can be tapped off at the output of the second inverter circuit 7.

The information to be stored is written to the storage element 4 by means of a first switching device 8 and a second switching device 9.

The first switching device 8 has a first transistor T1 and a second transistor T2, which are connected in series. A control input of the first transistor T1 is connected to the clock input 2. A control input of the second transistor T2 is

connected to an output of a first partially clocked inverter 10. The data signal D is present at the input of the first partially clocked inverter via the data input 3. The first switching element 8 is connected to a programming potential, preferably a ground potential, in order, in the event of activation of the first transistor T1 and of the second transistor T2, to apply the ground potential to the first node K1, i.e. to the input of the first inverter circuit 6.

The second switching element 9 has a third transistor T3 and a fourth transistor T4. The third transistor T3 and the fourth transistor T4 are connected in series, so that, in the event of activation of the third and fourth transistors T3, T4, the programming potential or the ground potential is applied to the second node K2, i.e. to the input of the second inverter circuit 7. The control terminal of the third transistor T3 is connected to the clock input 2 for the application of the clock signal CLK. A control input of the fourth transistor T4 is connected to the output of a second partially clocked inverter. The first, second, third and fourth transistors T1, T2, T3, T4 are preferably designed as N-channel transistors.

The first partially clocked inverter 10 has a fifth N-channel transistor T5, a sixth P-channel transistor T6 and a seventh P-channel transistor T7. A first terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7 is connected to a high supply voltage potential V_{DD} . A second terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7 is connected to a first terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 and a second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 is connected to a first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5. A second terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 is connected to the ground potential GND. The first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 and the second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6

are connected to the control terminal of the second transistor T2 of the first switching element 8. Control terminals of the fifth N-channel transistor T5 and of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 are connected to the data input 3 in order to apply the data signal. The clock signal CLK is applied to a control terminal of the seventh P-channel transistor T7.

The second partially clocked inverter 11 has an eighth N-channel transistor T8, a ninth P-channel transistor T9 and a tenth P-channel transistor T10. A first terminal of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 is connected to the high supply voltage potential V_{DD} and a second terminal of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 is connected to a first terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9. A second terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9 is connected to a first terminal of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 and a second terminal of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 is connected to the ground potential GND. Control inputs of the tenth P-channel transistor T10 and of the eighth N-channel transistor T8 are connected to the output of the first partially clocked inverter 10, i.e. to the second terminal of the sixth P-channel transistor T6 and the first terminal of the fifth N-channel transistor T5. The clock signal CLK is applied to the control terminal of the ninth P-channel transistor T9.

The series-connected transistors can be arbitrarily interchanged without adversely affecting the function of the circuit.

The flip-flop circuit 1 described above is able to accept a data signal at the data input 3 into the data acceptance unit 5 in the event of a low level of the clock signal CLK and to write it to the storage element 4 in the event of a high level of the clock signal CLK. The process of writing to the storage

element 4 is effected via the first switching element 8 and the second switching element 9, only one of the two switching elements 8, 9 being activated, while the respective other switching element is inhibited and, consequently, no potential is applied to the node K1, K2 of the feedback loop which is present at the switching element. The node K1, K2 of the feedback loop which is connected to the activated switching element 8, 9 is pulled to a low level corresponding to the ground potential GND and is inverted by the corresponding inverter circuit 6, 7, so that a high level is present at the respective other node K1, K2 of the feedback loop. The two nodes K1, K2 of the feedback loop of the storage element 4 are available as outputs of the flip-flop Q, QN, the first node K1 corresponding to the non-inverted output Q and the second node K2 corresponding to the inverted output QN.

The two switching elements 8, 9 serve for setting the storage element and are controlled by a semi-stable dynamic latch. This latch has the advantage that it can essentially be constructed with a smaller number of transistors than a static latch in a conventional D-type flip-flop.

By means of two partially clocked inverters, which are clocked only in the pull-up path, i.e. by the seventh P-channel transistor T7 and by the ninth P-channel transistor T9 with the aid of the clock signal CLK, the complementary input levels are generated, from the data signal D, at the first node K1 and the second node K2 of the storage element 4. In the event of a low clock level of the clock signal CLK, the first and second partially clocked inverter circuits 10, 11 are activated, so that the seventh and ninth P-channel transistors T7, T9 are activated in order to operate the first and second partially clocked inverters as inverters. In the event of a high clock level, the partially clocked inverters

10, 11 do not represent inverting gates, so that essentially no drive signal driven through from the data input from the low level to the high level is forwarded to the first and the second switching element 8, 9.

However, the first clock-controlled inverter 10 is not completely inhibited because a rising edge, i.e. a high signal level at the data input 3, can cause the output of the first clock-controlled inverter 10 to be pulled from a HIGH level to a low level. This level change could affect the output of the D-type flip-flop only if the hold time of the circuit were not properly complied with, since the path which is to be kept open for a minimum duration and is connected to the node K1 would then be closed prematurely in the driving of the storage element 4. The hold time is not complied with when the signal to be written, which is intended to be impressed on the feedback loop, is present at one of the nodes of the storage unit 4 only for an excessively short time duration.

In order to rewrite the information stored in the storage element 4 on account of a signal change - taking place during a high clock level - at the data input 3 from a low to a high potential, the second switching element 9 would have to be activated. This can only take place if the second partially clocked inverter 11 outputs a high signal level at its output in order to activate the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9. This is not possible, however, since, by virtue of the ninth P-channel transistor T9 being off, the output of the second partially clocked inverter 11 cannot assume a high potential if switching delays occur.

The provision of mutually separate switching elements 8, 9 has the advantage that the nodes K1, K2 of the feedback loop

cannot be short-circuited to one another if switching delays occur.

The flip-flop described above has the further advantage that it has a significantly reduced area requirement compared with the D-type flip-flops used heretofore. Furthermore, the D-type flip-flop circuit presented has good layout properties since, in particular, few line crossovers are present. Moreover, the circuit proposed requires a smaller number of P-channel transistors, which usually have a greater influence on the circuit area than N-channel transistors.

The outputs of the D-type flip-flop can be tapped off at the two nodes K1, K2 of the storage unit 4. In order that the feedback loop comprising the inverters 6 and 7 is not influenced by large input loads, provision is preferably made for decoupling the outputs from the downstream circuit via buffers (not shown).

In Fig. 2, provision is made of a further D-type flip-flop 20 with an activation input 21, to which an activation signal E can be applied. The further D-type flip-flop 20 has a storage element 4, a first switching element 8 and a second switching element 9, which are identical to the storage element 4 and the switching elements 8, 9 of the embodiments according to Fig. 1. Identical reference symbols indicate identical elements with an identical function.

In a further data acceptance unit 22, internal drive signals for the first and second switching elements 8, 9 are made available with the aid of a first partially clocked gate 23 and a second partially clocked gate 24.

The first partially clocked gate 23 has an eleventh N-channel transistor T11 and a twelfth N-channel transistor T12 connected in series therewith. A first terminal of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11 is connected to the ground potential GND. A second terminal of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11 is connected to a first terminal of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12 and a second terminal of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12 is connected to the second N-channel transistor T2 of the first switching element 8.

The first partially clocked gate 23 furthermore has a thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 and a fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 connected in series therewith. A first terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to the ground potential GND and a second terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to a first terminal of the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14. A second terminal of the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 is likewise connected to the control terminal of the second N-channel transistor T2 of the first switching element 8.

The data signal D is applied to a control input of the twelfth N-channel transistor T12. The activation signal E is applied to a control input of the eleventh N-channel transistor T11.

A transistor chain having a fifteenth P-channel transistor T15, a sixteenth P-channel transistor T16 and a seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 is connected to the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12, T14. A first terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor is connected to the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12, T14. A first terminal of the sixteenth P-channel transistor T16 is connected to a second terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor T15 and

a first terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 is connected to a second terminal of the sixteenth P-channel transistor T16. A second terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 is connected to the high supply voltage potential V_{DD} .

A control terminal of the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 is connected to the first node K1, i.e. the inverting output of the further D-type flip-flop 20, i.e. to the first terminal of the first N-channel transistor T1 of the first switching element 8. A control terminal of the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 is connected, in the same way as a control terminal of the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17, to the activation signal E inverted via an inverter 25. The data signal D is applied to a control terminal of the fifteenth P-channel transistor T15. The clock signal CLK is applied to a control terminal of the sixteenth P-channel transistor T16.

The second partially clocked gate 24 has an eighteenth N-channel transistor T18, the first terminal of which is connected to the ground potential GNB and the second terminal of which is connected to the control terminal of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9. A first terminal of a nineteenth N-channel transistor T9 is likewise connected to the ground potential GND and a second terminal of the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19 is connected to a first terminal of a twentieth N-channel transistor T20. A second terminal of the twentieth N-channel transistor T20 is connected, in the same way as the second terminal of the eighteenth N-channel transistor T18, to the control terminal of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9.

The second partially clocked gate 24 furthermore has a twenty-first P-channel transistor T21, the first terminal of which is connected to the second terminals of the eighteenth and twentieth N-channel transistors T18, T20. A second terminal of the twenty-first P-channel transistor T21 is connected to a first terminal of a twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. A first terminal of a twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 is connected to a second terminal of the twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. A second terminal of the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 is connected to the high supply voltage potential V_{DD} .

A control terminal of the twenty-first P-channel transistor T21 is connected to the clock signal CLK. The output of the first partially clocked gate 23, i.e. the second terminals of the twelfth and fourteenth N-channel transistors T12 and T14, is connected to the control terminals of the eighteenth N-channel transistor T18 and of the twenty-second P-channel transistor T22. The inverted activation signal E is applied to the control terminals of the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23 and of the twentieth N-channel transistor T20. The inverted output QN of the further D-type flip-flop 20, i.e. the second node K2, is connected to a control input of the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19.

The function of activation or deactivation of the further D-type flip-flop 20 is essentially effected by the seventeenth P-channel transistor T17 and the twenty-third P-channel transistor T23. These transistors turn off in the event of a low level of the activation signal E, which indicates that the further D-type flip-flop 20 is to be deactivated. Since, by virtue of the turning off of the seventeenth and twenty-third P-channel transistors T17, T23 in the event of a low level of the activation signal E, the drive signals for the first and

second switching elements 8, 9 can no longer assume a high level, in the event of a deactivated activation signal none of the nodes K1, K2 of the storage unit 4 can be pulled by the activation of the respective switching element 8, 9 from a high level to a low level and thus effect toggling of the information stored in the storage element 4.

In order that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal E, the floating control terminals of the second N-channel transistor of the first switching element 8 and of the fourth N-channel transistor T4 of the second switching element 9 cannot pass from a low level to the high level, e.g. due to leakage currents, the eleventh N-channel transistor T11, the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13, the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 and also the nineteenth and twentieth N-channel transistors T19, T20 are introduced in comparison with the D-type flip-flop 1 in accordance with the first embodiment. These transistors have the effect of switching the drive signal for the first and, respectively, the second switching element 8, 9 in the event of a deactivated activation signal in such a way that the ground potential GND is applied to the input of the first or second inverter circuit 6, 7 which is at a low level for the purpose of storing the data signal.

A low level of the activation signal indicates that the D-type flip-flop 20 is to be deactivated. In this case, the fourteenth N-channel transistor T14 and the twentieth N-channel transistor T20 attain the on state, so that it now depends on the datum stored in the storage element 4 whether the thirteenth N-channel transistor T13 or the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19 is activated. If the second node K2 is at a high potential, then the nineteenth N-channel transistor T19 is activated, so that a low potential is reliably present at the control input of the fourth N-channel transistor T4, so

that the second node K2 is not connected to the ground potential GND. This safeguards the stored information in the storage unit 4 in the event of a deactivated activation signal E.

The D-type flip-flop circuits according to the invention enable direct processing of the clock signal without inverters between clock input and clocking transistors. The data acceptance unit 22 is thus clocked with the rising edge of the clock signal CLK. Conventional flip-flop circuits have two latches which are generally triggered on complementary clock edges. By virtue of the fact that the inverters between clock input and clocking transistors can be avoided in the case of the D-type flip-flop circuit according to the invention, it is possible to reduce the number of transistors required for a D-type flip-flop circuit and to considerably reduce the internal power loss particularly in the case of a large number of D-type flip-flops used.

Patent Claims

1. A flip-flop having a clock input (2) for the application of a clock signal (CLK), a data input (3) for the application of a data signal (D), a non-inverted output (Q) and an inverted output (QN), the flip-flop having a data acceptance unit (5, 22) and a storage unit (4), the storage unit (4) having a feedback loop with a first and a second inverter circuit (7) having feedback to one another, the non-inverted output (Q) being coupled to an output of the first inverter circuit (6) and the inverted output (QN) being coupled to an output of the second inverter circuit (7), the data acceptance unit (5, 22) being configured in such a way as, depending on the data signal present and the clock signal (CLK) present, to allocate a predetermined programming potential either to an input of the first inverter circuit (6) or to an input of the second inverter circuit (7) and to apply no potential to the input of the respective other of the first and second inverter circuits (6, 7), characterized in that the data acceptance unit (5, 22) has a first switching element (8) in order to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the first inverter circuit (6) depending on the clock signal (CLK) and the data signal (D), and the data acceptance device (5, 22) has a second switching element (9) in order to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the second inverter circuit (7) depending on the clock signal (CLK) and the data signal (D).

2. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 1, the first switching element (8) being activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal (CLK) and a first level of the data signal (D) and being inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK) and/or a second level of the data signal (D).

3. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the second switching element (9) being activated in the event of a first level of the clock signal and a second level of the data signal (D) and being inhibited in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK) and/or a first level of the data signal (D).

4. The flip-flop as claimed in claims 1 to 3, the first switching element being coupled to an output of a first partially clocked inverter (10) in order to apply the inverted data signal to the first switching element (8) in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK) or in the event of the first level of the clock signal (CLK) given the presence of the second level of the data signal (D) and to apply no potential to the first switching element (8) given the presence of the first level of the clock signal (CLK) and the first level of the data signal (D).

5. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 4, the second switching element (9) being coupled to an output of a second partially clocked inverter (11),
the second partially clocked inverter (11) being connected to the output of the first partially clocked inverter (10) in order to apply a non-inverted data signal (D) to the second switching element (9) in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK) and to apply no altered potential to the second switching element (9) in the event of the first level of the clock signal (CLK).

6. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 5, the first and second partially clocked inverters (11) being configured in such a way that, in the event of a change in the clock signal (CLK) from the second level to the first level given an unchanged

data signal (D), the inverted data signal is present at the output of the first partially clocked inverter (10) and the non-inverted data signal (D) is present at the output of the second partially clocked inverter (11) in any case until the data signal (D) is stored in the storage unit (4).

7. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 1, an activation input (21) being provided in order to activate the flip-flop with the aid of an activation signal (E), the first switching element (8) and the second switching element (9) being activated or inhibited in each case depending on the clock signal (CLK), the data signal present at the data input (D), and the activation signal, so that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal (E), the information of the storage element remains stored independently of the clock signal (CLK) present and the data signal (D) present.

8. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 7, the first switching element being coupled to an output of a first partially clocked gate (23) in order

- to apply the inverted data signal (D) to the first switching element (8) in the event of an activated activation signal (E) and in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK), and
- to apply no potential to the first switching element (8) in the event of a deactivated activation signal (E),
- in the event of the first level of the clock signal (CLK), to apply either the inverted data signal (D) to the first switching element (8) if the second level of the data signal (D) is present, or no potential to the first switching element (8) if the first level of the data signal (D) is present.

9. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 8, the second switching element (8) being coupled to an output of a second partially clocked gate (24),

the second partially clocked gate (24) being connected to the output of the first partially clocked gate (23) in order

- to apply a non-inverted data signal (D) to the second switching element (9) in the event of an activated activation signal (E) and in the event of a second level of the clock signal (CLK), and
- to apply no potential to the second switching element (9) in the event of the first level of the clock signal (CLK) and/or in the event of a deactivated activation signal (E).

10. The flip-flop as claimed in claim 9, the first or the second switching element being connected to the first and the second partially clocked gate (23, 24) in such a way that, in the event of a deactivated activation signal (5) and in the event of the first level of the clock signal (CLK) depending on the data signal (D) stored in the storage unit (4), the first or the second switching element (8, 9) is activated in order to retain the information stored in the storage unit (4).

Abstract

D-type flip-flop with a reduced number of transistors

The invention relates to a flip-flop having a clock input for the application of a clock signal, a data input for the application of a data signal, a non-inverting output and an inverting output, the flip-flop having a data acceptance unit and a storage unit, the storage unit having a feedback loop with a first and a second inverter circuit having feedback to one another, the non-inverting output being coupled to an output of the first inverter circuit and the inverting output being coupled to an output of the second inverter circuit, the data acceptance unit being configured in such a way as, depending on the data signal present and the clock signal present, to allocate a predetermined programming potential either to an input of the first inverter circuit or to an input of the second inverter circuit and to apply no potential to the input of the respective other of the first and second inverter circuits, the data acceptance unit having a first switching element in order to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the first inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal, and the data acceptance device having a second switching element in order to apply the predetermined programming potential to the input of the second inverter circuit depending on the clock signal and the data signal.

Fig. 1

nt

List of reference symbols

1	D-type flip-flop
2	Clock input
3	Data input
4	Storage unit
5	Data acceptance unit
6	First inverter circuit
7	Second inverter circuit
8	First switching element
9	Second switching element
10	First partially clocked inverter
11	Second partially clocked inverter
20	D-type flip-flop with activation input
21	Activation input
22	Second data acceptance unit
23	First partially clocked gate
24	Second partially clocked gate
25	Inverter
T1 - T23	First to twenty-third field-effect transistor
V _{DD}	High supply voltage potential
GND	Ground potential
CLK	Clock signal
E	Activation signal
D	Data signal
Q	Non-inverted output
QN	Inverted output